

# Perfect Cycles in the Life of Meher Baba

Richard Blum  
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## Introduction

From a mathematical perspective, one could say that Meher Baba's lifespan consisted of perfect cycles. This article examines the timing of those key events in Meher Baba's life that mark transitions in His consciousness. A remarkable fact is that these transitions appear to have occurred in cycles of mathematical precision.

It is not surprising that Meher Baba's life consisted of perfect cycles, because the advent of the Avatar is the expression of God's perfection in human form. His perfection can manifest in many ways. The Avatar can express perfection in love, knowledge, service, or in any aspect of human life He chooses. The Avatar expresses the life of the perfect human being.

Meher Baba has spoken of cycles. He stated that the advent of the Avatar occurs in cycles throughout history, manifesting every 700 to 1400 years, and in between Avataric advents, there are cycles of ages of Perfect Masters. Similarly, human beings undergo cycles throughout their lives. Disciplines such as astrology speak of various cycles. It is but natural that the Avatar, being the perfect human, would have perfect cycles. Meher Baba had remarked that He does not deviate from the natural process. In coming down to our level He becomes even more human than we are. From an examination of His life, it appears as though Meher Baba adopted human cycles and lived through them perfectly.

## The Cycles

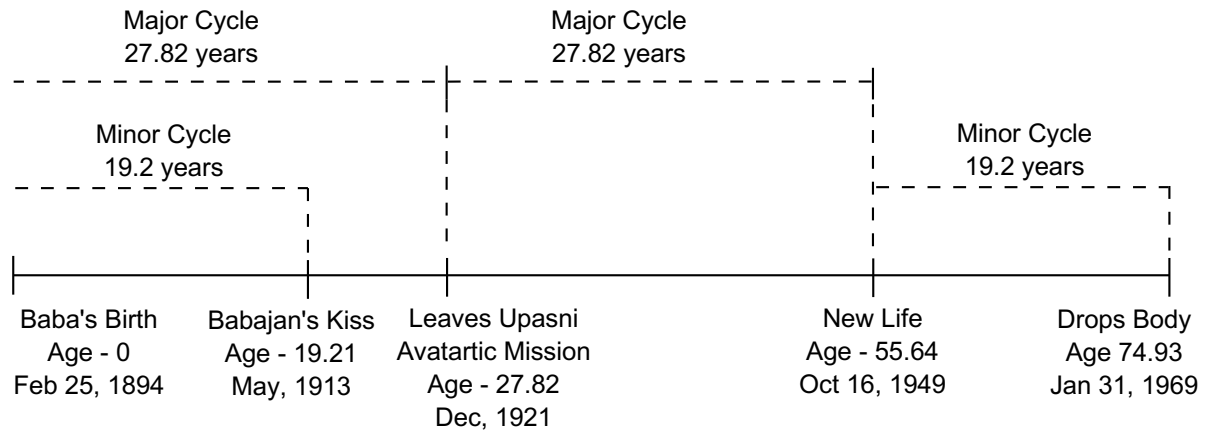
The apparent life cycles revolved around transitions in consciousness, which Meher Baba experienced several times during His lifetime. The timing of these cycles becomes evident by observing a timeline of His life. The key transitions of Meher Baba's consciousness used to determine the cycles are listed with their respective dates and ages:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Age<sup>1</sup></b>
Baba's physical birth	February 25, 1894	0
Babajan kisses Baba	May 1913	19.22
Baba leaves Upasni Starts Avataric Mission	December 1921	27.82
Start of the New Life	October 16, 1949	55.64
Baba drops His Body	January 31, 1969	74.93

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<sup>1</sup> Age is expressed in decimal form. A fractional part is calculated by determining the number of days since the beginning of a year and dividing it by 365. For example, Feb 25, 1894 = 31 days for Jan plus 25 days in Feb. 31 + 25 = 56 days. 56/365 = 0.15. Thus Baba's birthday = 1894.15.

The dates and cycles as represented on a timeline:



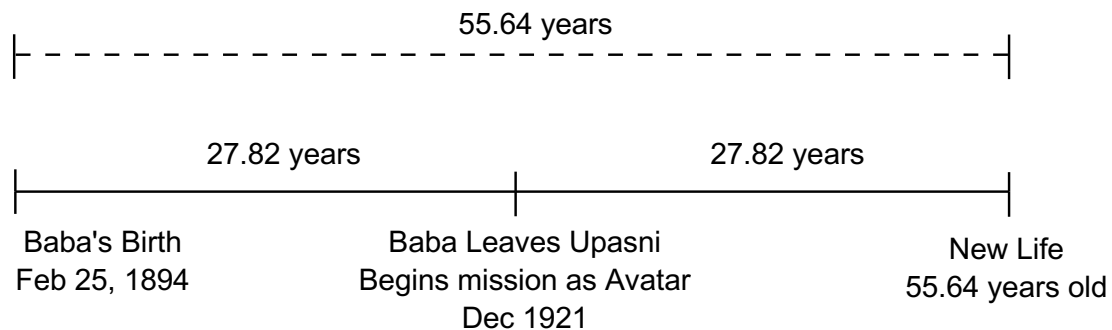
The dates in this timeline are not arbitrary. They mark the key transitions in Baba's consciousness. Birth, God-Realization, integration with normal consciousness, functioning as master and Avatar, stepping down to normal consciousness in the New Life, and finally the dropping of His body.

These transitions brought Him into and took Him out of His God state. The cycles start with His birth; He was born with normal human consciousness, veiled from His Divinity as a child. His first transition in consciousness occurred when He met Babajan who kissed Him on His forehead and gave Him the experience of Divine bliss. This experience continued for 9 months until she completely removed the veil and made Him realize God. Baba remained in His super-conscious state for an additional 9 months until He began to integrate His God-consciousness with normal human consciousness. This integration phase, under the guidance of the Perfect Masters, lasted seven years until He completed a 6 month stay with Upasni Maharaj who then fully integrated His God consciousness with normal gross consciousness. At this point Baba left Upasni and began His mission as master and Avatar.

Baba again experienced a transition in consciousness at the time of the New Life, when He voluntarily gave up His Old Meher Baba state of consciousness to play the role of a perfect seeker with ordinary human consciousness. He maintained this state of ordinary consciousness during the New Life until achieving Manonash, the annihilation of the false, and regaining His Old Life Meher Baba state. Baba retained His Divine State of consciousness until He dropped His physical body.

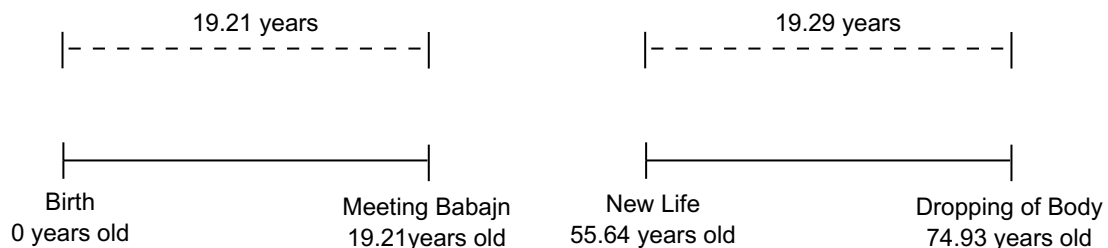
## Major Cycles

The easiest way to understand how the major cycles are derived is to start with Baba's age at the start of the New Life, which is 55.64 years, and to divide it in half to yield 27.82 years. This is exactly Baba's age when He left Upasni in December of 1921 with fully integrated consciousness and started to function as Master and Avatar. In other words, Baba began His Avataric mission exactly halfway between His birth and the start of the New Life.



This length of time represents the major cycle. It is 27.82 years in length. It is fitting that the cycle starts anew, with the New Life.

There is also a minor cycle within this major cycle. It can be derived by finding the length of time between the New Life and Baba's dropping of the body.



19.29 years elapsed between the start of the New Life and Dropping His body. 19.21 years happens to be the approximate age that Baba was when He met Babjan and was kissed by her.<sup>2</sup> Thus, 19.29 years represents the minor cycle. It starts at the beginning of a major cycle. It occurs twice starting at Baba's birth and starting again at the beginning of the New Life.

<sup>2</sup> There is not an exact date of this meeting, it occurred sometime in May 1913. May 15 was used for the calculation yielding 19.21 years.

## **Significance of Cycles**

Cycles imply repetition, and what is being repeated in Baba's cycles are broad themes of life and death. The major cycle of 27.82 years is a Cycle of Life, and the minor cycle of 19.2 years is a Cycle of Death.

The Cycle of Life repeats three times, starting with birth, Avataric Mission, and New Life. It is easy to see the connection between birth and New Life, and why they would be part of the Cycle of Life. Birth implies the beginning of a new life. New Life implies starting life anew, or rebirth. Indeed Baba starts life anew in the New Life, by assuming the consciousness of an ordinary man and playing the role of a perfect seeker.

The remaining starting point in the Cycle of Life occurs when Baba begins His mission as the Avatar. Being the Avatar is the reason He manifested on earth. Thus this point marks the beginning of His life's work, and as it is the start of His Life as Avatar, it belongs as a starting point in the Cycle of Life.

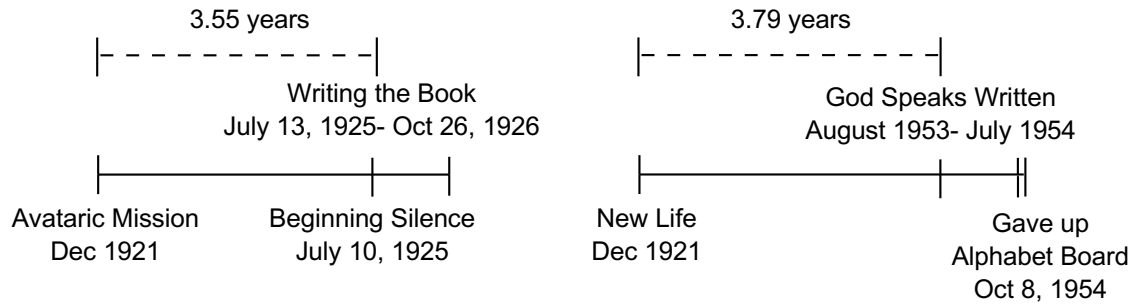
The 19.2 year cycle on the other hand, is a Cycle of Death. This can be clearly seen by the fact that the second occurrence of this cycle marks when Baba dropped His body, His physical death. But what about the first occurrence of this cycle, when Babajan kissed Him, why is that connected to death? Because Babajan removed the veil, thus bringing an end to His life as Merwan, and initiated Him into the life of God. Thus it can be viewed as a death of Merwan. But more important are Baba's own words describing His experience at that time. "After the first three days of my superconscious state I was truly dead to everybody and everything...Actually dead though really living..."<sup>3</sup> For nine months Baba experienced this state of being dead to the world, and thus this transition in consciousness belongs to the Cycle of Death.

## **The Book, God Speaks, and Silence**

Baba wrote or dictated several major books during His lifetime. His two major works were His secret Book and God Speaks, both containing Divine revelations. Both of these books were written just a few years after the beginning of a major cycle. Baba began writing the Book on July 13, 1925. That was 3.55 years after the start of the second major cycle. Baba began dictating God Speaks in August 1953. That was 3.79 years after the start of third major cycle.

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<sup>3</sup> Listen, Humanity by Meher Baba, Edited by Don Stevens, Harper Clolophon Books, 1967, Page 246,



Furthermore, it is interesting to note that there is a connection between Baba’s writing of His books and His silence. Baba began keeping silence just 3 days before He began writing the book. Starting a year later and for many years thereafter, Baba used an alphabet board for communicating. He finally gave up the alphabet board and deepened His silence shortly after (87 days) He completed dictating God Speaks.

Even the choice of the title God Speaks indicates that Baba connected His writing to His silence, or at least the breaking of His Silence. It appears that the more Baba refrained from communicating, the more He revealed through the written word.

What is the significance of Baba writing His books shortly after the start of these cycles? Baba made no comments or explanations directly along these lines. However, examining the events connected with these cycles may shed some light. The first cycle ended and the second cycle began when Baba’s God consciousness was fully integrated with gross conscious. The third cycle began with the New Life with Baba assuming the role of a gross consciousness aspirant, and it ended with Manonash, when Baba regained God consciousness. Both of these events involved integration of God consciousness with gross consciousness. It appears that a continuation of this integration process is communication of His Divine state of being to normal conscious souls. And this communication appears to start about 3.5 to 3.8 years after He experiences integration. Not only is He integrating Divine consciousness with gross consciousness within himself, but He is also sharing it with others. To communicate, Baba chose both silence and the written word as His means of communication. The more silent He became, the more He revealed through the written word.

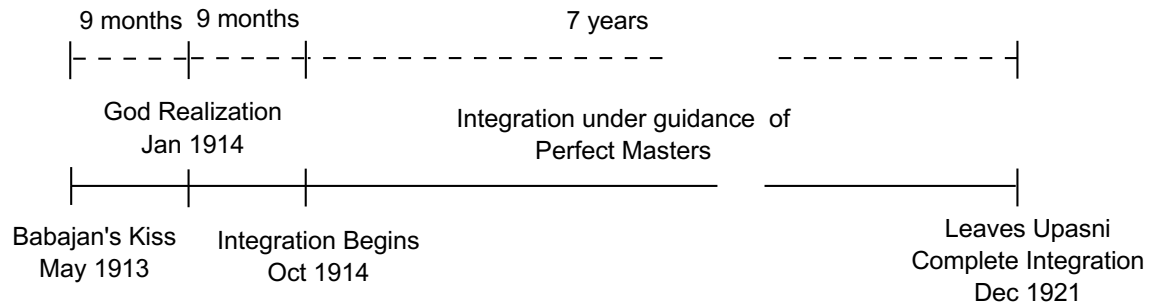
### **Kiss, God Realization, and Integration**

Babajan kissed Baba on the forehead in May 1913. In Baba’s own words He described this experience, “With just a kiss on the forehead, between the eyebrows, Babjan made me experience thrills of indescribable bliss which continued for about 9 months. Then one night she made me realize in a flash the infinite bliss of self-realization.”<sup>4</sup> Baba further states, “...the indescribable spiritual agonies I passed through for another 9 months in returning to normal human consciousness.”<sup>5</sup> And finally Baba says, “...it took

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*, page 245

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*, page 246

me seven years of acute struggle under Maharaj’s active guidance to return completely to, and become established in, normal human consciousness...”<sup>6</sup>



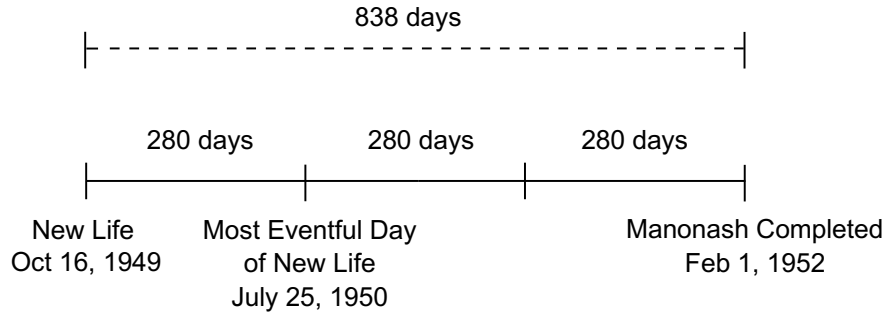
As noted earlier, Baba described His state after God-Realization as similar to being dead. The process of integration with normal human consciousness brought Him back to “life.” Thus what He experienced was similar to a death-rebirth experience. What is interesting is that Baba spent 9 months, the length of time of an embryo gestating inside a mother’s womb, in His superconscious state before beginning to experience integration. Then after those 9 months He spent approximately 7 years under the guidance of the Perfect Masters. After those 7 years He was ready to assume the authority and responsibility of being a perfect spiritual master. In the Discourses Baba states that 7 years is the length of time for a child to develop before He becomes responsible for His own karma. Therefore, it can be viewed that after becoming God-Realized, Baba followed the pattern of one being in the womb for 9 months, then developed like a child under the guidance of the Perfect Masters for 7 years, before becoming fully responsible as a Master.

### **New Life and Manonash**

The New Life is the period of time in which Meher Baba played the role of a perfect seeker with ordinary consciousness. It ended with Baba regaining His God-Conscious state through Manonash, the annihilation of the Mind. The New Life started on October 16, 1949 and ended when Baba completed Manonash on Feb 1, 1952. The New Life’s time span was 838 days, or the equivalent of three 9-month gestation cycles. (280 days is a standard length of gestation period. It is the time from a last menstrual period to birth.)

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<sup>6</sup> *ibid*, page 249



The end of the first 280-day cycle ends at a very significant point in the New Life. Baba referred to it as “the most eventful day of my New Life,” the day on which He reconfirmed His New Life oath. The cycle ended on July 23, 1950, and 2 days later Baba held a special meeting with His New Life companions. The meeting began with a reading of a prayer, which Baba himself had dictated the previous day. The prayer begins with “On this, the most eventful day of my New Life....”<sup>7</sup> After the prayer was read out Baba sat “alone for ten minutes. Baba then clapped, and the men reentered the hall. Baba informed them that He had again reconfirmed His original oath before God taken at the beginning of the New Life.”<sup>8</sup> It is interesting to note that Baba reconfirmed His New Life oath, at the beginning of a 9-month cycle.

Nothing noteworthy appeared to happen at the end of the second 280-day cycle, but the third and final 280-day cycle has great significance. The third cycle’s ending coincides with Baba’s completion of Manonash, the long seclusion which culminated in the annihilation of the mind and ending the New Life. Regarding Manonash Baba made a declaration on June 29, 1951 in a discourse entitled *What God Has Determined*: “I am at this moment solely and entirely in the New Life, and it is purely from this New Life stand of an ordinary human being that I tell you about this annihilation...”<sup>9</sup> “Manonash is real *samadhi* (bliss) for the mind. Mind is uprooted and then its death occurs...”<sup>10</sup> At the end of Manonash Baba stated, “I have tried my utmost for the achievement of Manonash... having regained my *Old Life Meher Baba state*, yet retaining my *New Life ordinary state*. I have regained the Knowledge, Strength and Greatness that I had in the Old Life; and retained the ignorance, weaknesses and humility of the New Life. This union of the Old and New Life states has given birth to *LIFE* – Life that is eternally old and new.”<sup>11</sup>

It appears that the themes of life, death, and integration of consciousness are again repeated during the New Life. The beginning of the New Life corresponds to life, and Manonash, the annihilation of mind, corresponds to death. During the Manonash seclusion Baba said, “I feel that I am dying every moment. I die and die badly!”<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Lord Meher, copyright Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Trust, page 3619

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*, page 3619

<sup>9</sup> *ibid*, page 3706

<sup>10</sup> *ibid*, page 3718

<sup>11</sup> *ibid*, page 3761

<sup>12</sup> *ibid*, page 3744

The 9 month periods during the New Life mirror the 9 month periods when kissed by Babajan. At the time of the kiss, Baba experienced a semblance of death and then rebirth. In the New Life, Baba first experienced life as an ordinary human, then death of the mind. The death of the mind restored God-Consciousness, and gave birth to the period of time He called Life. The union of Old Life and New Life, was another integration of His God-Consciousness with normal consciousness.

## **Conclusion**

It appears that the manifestation of God on earth occurs through cycles of birth and death. The natural rhythms of life, consisting of embryonic gestation, childhood development, language acquisition, and finally death recapitulate in the life of the Avatar. These cycles occur without any planning, but simply through the natural living of the life of God in human form. By simply examining Meher Baba's life, one can discover these cycles. There is no need to use any external discipline such as astrology, normally used to study cycles. Rather, the life of Meher Baba is a perfect system unto itself.